

FRATERNAL NOTICES.

MASONIC—THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL COM-
munication of the Grand Lodge, No. 24, THURSDAY,
the 13th inst., at 7:30 o'clock p.m. Work:
F. & M. degree. By order of the W. M.,
W. E. NALLEY, Secretary.

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING OF
the M. W. M. of the Grand Lodge, No. 24, THURSDAY,
the 13th inst., at 7:30 o'clock p.m. Work:
F. & M. degree. By order of the W. M.,
W. E. NALLEY, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICES.
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ability enable us to produce printing that
pleases.

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And they're just exactly right to take on
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Our prices are THE LOWEST.

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Roofs Made Leak-proof
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Agents active in Maryland, Virginia and Dis-
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reasonable rates. Light, heat and janitor
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LT. SULLON'S DISAPPEARANCE.

Ordinarily He Would Have Been Dropped as a Deserter.
Under ordinary circumstances the name of Second Lieut. Max Sullon, 10th Cavalry, would have been dropped from the army roster yesterday afternoon. Such is the practice followed in the case of an officer who has been absent from his post without leave for three months. In the latter part of May Lieut. Sullon, who was then stationed in Texas, was granted a few days' leave of absence for the purpose of visiting his family in the neighborhood. Since then he has not been heard of, and has been carried on the rolls as "absent without leave." Lieut. Sullon was an officer of excellent record and exemplary habits, and was happy in all his relations, domestic and official. Consequently the belief is general in military circles that his unexplained absence is not entirely voluntary, and it is feared that he has been charged with desertion against his record. Every effort is being made to secure some news of him, and that action will be taken by the department until his fate is ascertained.

DR. WATKINS' CAREER.

His Death Severe Loss to National Museum.

SERVED AS CURATOR

AN AUTHORITY ON HISTORY OF MECHANICAL ARTS.

Was a Member of Patriotic Organizations—His Ancestors Distinguished

—A Tribute of Respect.

The United States National Museum feels keenly the loss it incurred by the sudden death in New York city, August 11, of Dr. John Elfreth Watkins, who for many years was curator of mechanical arts.

Dr. Watkins was born in Ben Lomond, Va., May 17, 1852, and was a son of Dr. Francis B. Watkins and Mary Elfreth. On his father's side he was descended from Thomas Watkins, who, during the war of the revolution, assisted by influence and money, raised a troop of cavalry of which his son became

captain. On his mother's side he was also descended from Timothy Matlack, the lighting Quaker, who was a member of the committee on safety in Pennsylvania, and subsequently a delegation to the Continental Congress during the years 1780 to 1787.

Young Watkins received his academic education at Tremont Seminary in Norristown, Pa., and then entered Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., where he was graduated in the scientific course in 1871, taking the degree of C. E. and M. S. For a year after graduation he served the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company as mining engineer, and then entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad as assistant engineer of construction, being stationed at Middletown, N. J., where he remained until 1873, when he was disabled for further field work by an unfortunate accident that resulted in the amputation of his right leg. On his recovery he was assigned to the Amboy division of the Pennsylvania road, and served in various capacities during the ten years that followed. In 1873 he was appointed chief clerk of the Camden and Atlantic railroad, and a year later was assigned to a similar office on the Amboy division of the Pennsylvania railroad, which place he then held until 1884.

Meantime having become interested in studying the history of the beginnings of mechanical arts in the United States, he was brought into close relations with the late Dr. G. Brown Goode, upon whose recommendation the then secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, recognizing his worth, invited him to become honorary curator of transportation in the National Museum, which place he accepted in 1884, and at once began to develop that part of the museum's collections which are now so valuable. Two years later he severed his connection with the Pennsylvania road, in order to devote all of his time to the museum, and continued as curator until 1892. The knowledge which he had acquired with special reference to the early history of the Pennsylvania railroad led to an invitation which he could not refuse to act as exhibit of that corporation, and to organize the exhibits made by them at the world's Columbian exposition in Chicago. This exhibit was one of unusual interest, including as it did the original locomotive, John Bull, and many other historic objects, and of a volume of nearly 200 pages, which was published by the Pennsylvania railroad in 1893.

At the close of the world's fair in Chicago the Field Columbian Museum was organized, and it was at once apparent that the proper man for the curatorship of the Department of Industrial Arts, Dr. Watkins, and he was immediately called to that place, where he remained for one year organizing the exhibits and making arrangements for the National Museum were too strong to be completely severed, and he resumed his office as curator of mechanical technology, which place he continued to hold until his death, as well as his position of superintendent of the Smithsonian Institution, which he held until his death.

Engineering Topics.
His interest in the history of transportation led to his publishing numerous papers on that subject, among which may be mentioned his "Beginnings of Engineering in America," published in 1889; "The American Railroad and the World's Log of the Savannah," in 1890; "Transportation and Lifting of Heavy Bodies by the Ancients," in 1898, and also to his being chosen to prepare the history of the Pennsylvania railroad, 1845-1890, a series of large quarto volumes descriptive of the first fifty years of railroad, which is regarded as beyond doubt the most complete history of the beginnings of railroad transportation in the United States.

As his reputation in these matters increased he became more and more recognized as the great American authority on the history of mechanical arts, and in recognition of his work in this direction the Stevens Institute of Technology in 1900 conferred upon him the degree of doctor of engineering.

Dr. Watkins was exceedingly loyal to the city of his home and was the moving spirit in the patent centennial exercises which were held in Washington in 1889, and had much to do with the volume that was subsequently published. He also served as various committees in connection with the inauguration of the President of the War of 1812, of which he was for some time treasurer, and the Washington Philosophical Society, of which he was for some time secretary. He was called to serve as a juror on his specialty at the exhibitions of Atlanta, Omaha and Buffalo.

His wife, (Mrs. Sullon), died in 1890, and he has two sons, the elder of whom bears his own name, and three daughters survive him.

Tribute of Respect.
A meeting of his colleagues and associates at the National Museum was held today at 2 o'clock in the office of the assistant secretary for the purpose of taking action on the death of Dr. Watkins. The acting secretary, Mr. Robinson, presided, and a committee, consisting of Dr. Alder, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Rovenal, presented resolutions of sympathy and condolence, which were adopted. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon from his late residence in 8 street.

FAIR TONIGHT.

Thursday Increasing Cloudiness; Northerly Winds.

Forecast till 8 p.m. Thursday: For Maryland, fair, cooler tonight. Thursday increasing cloudiness; fresh northerly winds.

For the District of Columbia, fair tonight. Thursday increasing cloudiness; light to fresh northerly winds.

For Virginia, fair tonight; cooler in central and southeast portions. Thursday increasing cloudiness; fresh northerly winds.

Maximum temperature past twenty-four hours, 78; a year ago, 90.

Weather conditions and general forecast: The tropical storm is apparently central south of the west coast of Cuba and receding to the northward, most probably in the direction of the Florida Annapolis. The pressure is falling steadily over western Cuba and southern Florida, with high northeasterly winds over the former district.

There have been showers quite generally in the Atlantic and Gulf states and Ohio valley, and locally in the region as far as the mountains. There are also showers in the southern plateau.

Temperatures have fallen considerably in the Ohio valley and the region as far as the mountains. There are also showers in the southern plateau.

There will be showers tonight on the south Atlantic coast and rain in southern Florida. There will be rain Thursday in the south Atlantic and showers in the east.

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THE COURTS.

Equity Court No. 1—Justice Barnard. Goodale act. Goodale; commission ordered to issue. McCormick act. Watson; leave to intervene granted. American Wool Rim Co. act. American Wool Rim Co.; leave to intervene granted. American Wool Rim Co. act. American Wool Rim Co.; leave to intervene granted.

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LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS.

Methods Necessary in Selling Personality for Taxes.

COUNSEL'S OPINION

POINT IN LAW UPON WHICH COLLECTOR WANTED LIGHT.

The Officer to Be Authorized by Commissioners to Distrain and Sell Property.

Mr. E. H. Thomas, acting corporation counsel, this morning made an important ruling under authority of the District Commissioners as to the methods to be employed by the collector of taxes in distraining upon and selling personal property in the District of Columbia on which the personal tax is in arrears.

The result of an inquiry on the part of Mr. E. G. Davis, the District collector, who is charged with the custody and sale of any property that may be seized.

Paragraph 12 of the personal tax law provides that when the tax on personal property due and payable each year shall not be paid on or before the 1st day of June, the collector of taxes, or his deputy, may distrain sufficient goods and chattels found within the District and belonging to the delinquents to pay the amounts due.

In the event no personal property can be reached, then the collector is given to sell any interest the delinquents may have in real property in the District.

One of the points raised by Mr. Davis was as to whether the words "or his deputy" meant the present deputy collector of taxes, and also whether it would be necessary to formally appoint a deputy to carry out the provisions of the personal tax law.

On the subject of the deputy collector Mr. Thomas, in his opinion, quotes the provisions of the act of Congress, approved June 11, 1896, to the following effect: "The collector of taxes shall have the duty of collecting the same, and the collector shall be responsible, as now provided by law, to the United States for the collection of the same, and to individuals, as the case may be, for all moneys collected."

"I am constrained to advise you," says Mr. Thomas, "that you should construe the words, 'his deputy,' in paragraph 12, section 6 of the act of July 1, 1902, to mean the deputy collector of taxes in the act of June 11, 1896, as the one who may authorize to distrain for the collection of overdue taxes on personal property. I do not think any appointment of such deputy is necessary, and it will do no harm to make a formal appointment."

Mr. Thomas forwards a blank form of appointment to be issued to the deputy collector and executed by the collector of taxes.

"In making this suggestion," continues Mr. Thomas, "I have no intention of having not surrendered my conviction that you may legally authorize an agent or agents to act for you, but I believe compliance with the statute is the safest procedure."

With regard to the place of sale and the person making it, Mr. Thomas says: "The sale is required to be at the time and place prescribed by the statute and by the officer designated, otherwise it will be void. The act of March 3, 1877, provided that the sale should be made by the collector 'in front of his office,' but the present law omits the words 'in front of his office' and states that the collector shall proceed to sell at public auction in his office. You can allow one to cry the sale for you if you are present."

Mr. Thomas states that in case of a distraint of personal property the collector is required to advertise the same immediately by posting public notice in his office and by advertisement three times within one week, in one or more of the daily newspapers published in said District, stating the time, when and the place where such property shall be sold, the last publication to be at least six days before the date of sale, which shall not be less than five days before the date of sale.

"You should allow ten clear days between the levy and sale," Mr. Thomas continues, "but you may allow less than ten days, if you are present, and the collector is to be three times within one week and to end six days before the sale. Ten days, including the first day of advertisement, should be allowed, if the collector is not present, although only nine days are required. This would make the last publication at least six days before the date of sale, and would probably assume the elapse of ten days between the levy and sale."

Mr. Thomas concludes by saying that he regards the care of the goods between the time of levy and sale as a matter of great importance, and expenses which shall have accrued thereon. Ten days' storage will suffice if notice is promptly given. The statute does not say where the collector should keep the goods between the time of levy and sale.

Mr. Thomas states that in case of a distraint of personal property the